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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DM-21

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet Intentions

1. General.

CIA Weekly of 28 April 1950: "Since the beginning of 1950, the USSR has gradually stepped up and expanded its diplomatic, political, and economic offensive against the West and the cold war has now reached another peak of aggressiveness and militancy. In its current offensive, the USSR has not changed its previous tactics of subversion, violence, and diplomatic and propaganda pressure; the improved Soviet power position, however, enables the USSR to conduct its offensive on more fronts simultaneously and to adopt a more defiant and militant stand. The Kremlin is presumably confident that the West will not react with enough vigor to create conditions which might lead to actual hostilities.

Draft of ORE 35-50 (In process of IAC Coordination): "A deliberate Soviet decision to resort to direct military action before July 1952 is improbable. Nevertheless, the conduct of Soviet foreign policy will continue to be aggressive at every point of contact with the Western world. In this circumstance there is always a real possibility of an unintentional outbreak of hostilities due to miscalculation either by the USSR or the Western alliance of one another's motives or intentions.



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GRE 3-49 of 28 February 1949: "Withdrawal of US forces from Korea in the spring of 1949 would probably in time be followed by an invasion, timed to coincide with Communist-led South Korean revolts, by the North Korean People's Army. Assuming that Korean Communists would make aggressive use of the opportunity presented them, US troop withdrawal would probably result in a collapse of the US-supported Republic of Korea. In contrast, continued presence in Korea of a moderate US force, would not only discourage the threatened invasion but would assist in sustaining the will and ability of the Koreans themselves to resist any future invasion.

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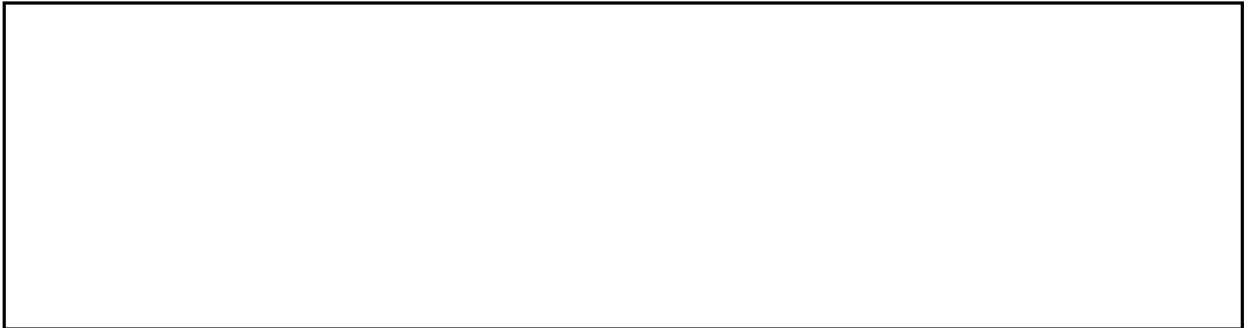
OSM 12-50 of 19 June: "Northern Korea's military forces are still being expanded. So far as the ground forces are concerned, this process involves the integration into the "People's Army" of local recruits and of Korean troops that have seen service under the Chinese Communists in Manchuria, as well as the equipping of this force with small arms, artillery, vehicles, aircraft, and armor from the USSR.

Trained and equipped units of the Communist "People's Army" are being deployed southward in the area of the 38th Parallel. "People's Army" and Border Constabulary units there equal or surpass the strength of southern Korean army units similarly deployed. Tanks and heavy artillery have also been moved close to the Parallel in recent months.

The ultimate local objective of the Soviet Union and of the northern Korean regime is the elimination of the southern Republic of Korea and the unification of the Korean peninsula under Communist domination. To this end, an open invasion of the Republic by northern Korean military forces has thus far been delayed in favor of a coordinated campaign involving political pressure within southern Korea, subversion, propaganda, intimidation, economic pressure, and military actions by infiltration of guerrilla forces.

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